

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## JULY 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We are nearly at the end of another academic year, and what a different year it has been. For the first time in the school's history, we have had to close as a result of a global pandemic, which has affected so many others around the world and we have seen a 'new normal' established. At Benedict Biscop, we have been very fortunate that none of our pupils and staff have become seriously ill and we hope and pray that this continues to be the case as we move forward. We are saddened by the huge losses across the world and in our neighbouring communities.

In recent weeks, we have put several measures in place, to keep our pupils and staff safe, and have successfully managed the return of our Year 1 and Reception cohort as well as part of our Nursery cohort, whilst also continuing to offer key worker places for nearly 50 pupils. School has been such a joyous place to be in and as staff, we count ourselves as being very fortunate that we are able to hear the joy and laughter of the pupils who have returned to school. We hope that come September we are able to welcome back all of our pupils and our new Nursery children.

We say goodbye to a fantastic year 6, who have continued to work tirelessly during lockdown. We can't wait to see them at our leavers celebration on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> July, where they will probably put me to shame with their general knowledge during our planned quiz, however I doubt they will have as much bingo experience as me.

At this time of year, we would normally share with pupils and parents the staffing arrangements for the following academic year. Although we are still awaiting guidance from the Government regarding how we will return pupils to school in September, I would like to share with you some staffing changes that will take place in September and to clarify the staffing of classes from September 2020 – all being well.

At the end of the summer term, Mr Cosgrove our Year 5 teacher and Miss Reay our Year 3 teacher will be leaving us after a very successful year in school. Mr Cosgrove is unfortunately moving with family down South and Miss Reay is resuming her previous position as a midwife. We are sad that we will be losing two excellent teachers, but they are both very keen to keep in touch with the school and say that they will miss everyone. We also say goodbye to Miss Rowland and Miss Young, who have both trained with us as apprentices, we wish them well as they move on in their professional career.

It is not long now before we welcome back Mrs Bailey and Miss Johnston, who are returning after their maternity leave and we are also looking forward to the return of Mrs Hunt in early October.

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The current planned teaching staff for the classes for next year will be:

EYFS – Mrs Whelam Tate and Miss Jones

Year 1 – Mrs Bradford

Year 2 – Mrs Bailey and Mrs Hunt

Year 3 – Mr Cain

Year 4 – Mrs Lockerbie

Year 5 – Miss Brooks [who joins us in September]

Year 6 – Mr Allison

Mr Holt will continue to support pupils across KS2 on the morning and teach PE across the school on an afternoon, if we are able to mix bubbles. Miss Worth is looking forward to starting her adoption leave soon; we are so excited to have another BB family member. Mrs Whelam Tate and Mrs Armstrong will be acting as SENCO in Miss Worth's absence.

Despite the limited time that we have had in school this year, I am really pleased at the fantastic progress we have made across the curriculum. The school community have worked together to revisit our school vision and we are delighted with our new vision statement, 'all things are possible'. The vision stems from Matthew 19 V26 and encapsulates our belief that each and every learner is completely unique and special to God and it is our role as a school, to enable them to flourish in their potential as a uniquely created and wonderfully made child of God. This means that by working together, we can create a unique, purposeful learning environment that enables children to achieve the things they put their mind too, no matter how impossible it may seem at first or what barriers appear to be in the way. We can teach children to overcome these challenges, and to believe they can make a positive contribution to the local and global community, no matter what.

We have strengthened our curriculum in our foundation subjects, ensuring that we have a broad and fully balanced curriculum, where pupils are taught key knowledge whilst developing skills which are built upon each year, without losing the schools historically high standards. We have looked at developing our personal development curriculum to ensure that we react to our current climate, introduced Kidsafe within more year groups and we have taught our children how to be safe with ICECATS.

A particular focus of development this year has been the school Computing curriculum, where pupils have enjoyed a greater range of plugged and unplugged activities developing their computational thinking. This has been further extended with the introduction of Showbie, our new home learning platform. This has been positively received by families and has been crucial in enabling school to continue to teach and support pupils, whilst maintaining communication between pupils and staff on a daily basis during lockdown. We are planning to continue to use Showbie next year to provide home learning, making homework more purposeful and also ensuring

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Cont...

that school is ready, should another local lockdown occur. We would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers who have got on board with Showbie and supported their child to access the education provided by school. We appreciate how difficult it is to do this in a different environment, with the pressures of working from home and having to support other siblings.

We have seen the school Facebook page grow from strength to strength, supported by more than 400 community members, helping to improve communication with the community, whilst providing us with the platform to share the many successes we have at school. The positive feedback we receive helps staff to know just how much families appreciate all that we do as a school. It has also been a brilliant way for school to keep in touch with you all during lockdown and a fantastic way of seeing all the amazing home learning....keep posting!

As we move forward, I would like to share with parents that creation of our new extended car park, with parental drop of access, is due to commence shortly within the school grounds. We hope that this will help to reduce the number of parked cars at key points of the school day. This also means that we can confirm that the school will be closed over the summer holidays. We as of yet do not have a start date for the rest of the school extension, delayed due to lockdown, but we do hope that this will begin no later than the Autumn term.

School are currently looking at their plans to support any required catch up for pupils once they return to school. We will hopefully provide parents with more details before the end of term, once school receives guidance from the government.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff and the staff of the Trust. I am so lucky to work with such an exceptional team, who have pulled together in the most challenging time to continue to support our pupils and families. Everyone has worked tirelessly throughout the lockdown period, working from home, working onsite in rotas and continuing to educate pupils in school whilst also maintaining our online Showbie platform for pupils who are not yet able to return. I would also like to thank the school governors and directors of the Trust, who give up their time voluntarily to support us and have been instrumental in enabling the school to open safely for the return of many pupils.

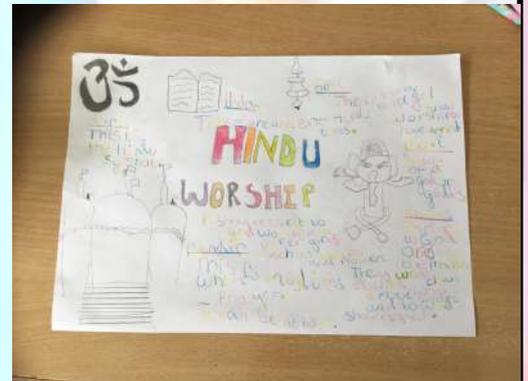
I hope that school continue to reopen as planned and that everyone remains safe in the coming months. Take care and once again, thank you for your hugely positive support...we really appreciate it.

Regards  
Mrs Armstrong

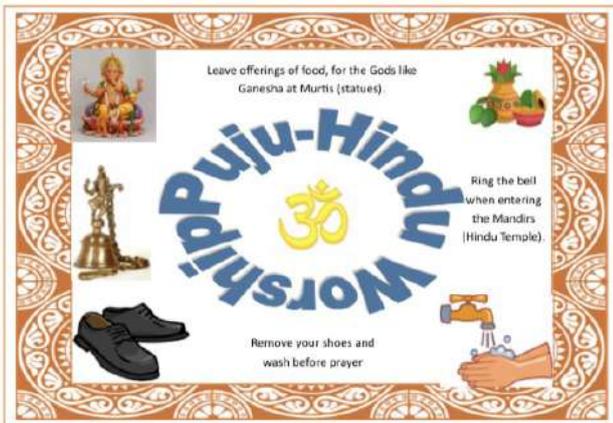
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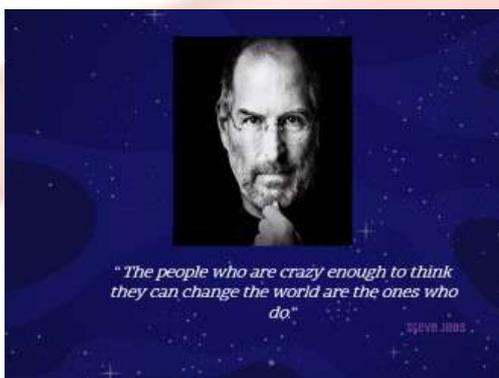
**Year 3** have been learning all about how Hindus in Britain worship at home with their families. They carried out their own research and presented their findings in a poster. Here are some examples of the fabulous work they



have completed!



**Year 6** have continued with their weekly art sessions linked to the National History Museum. This piece has been created combining technology and sketching for the theme of wildlife in the cities. As well as this, Year 6 have been focusing on Steve Jobs- his work with Apple and how he used electronics to make the devices that we all use daily.

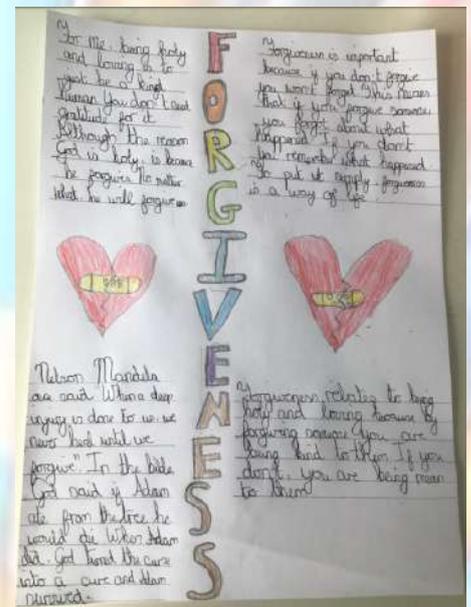
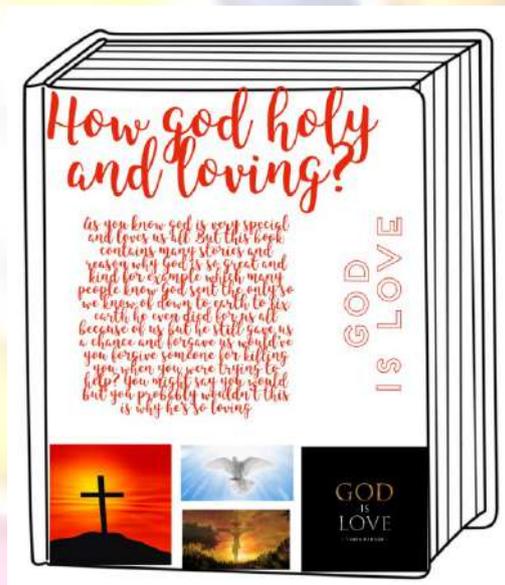


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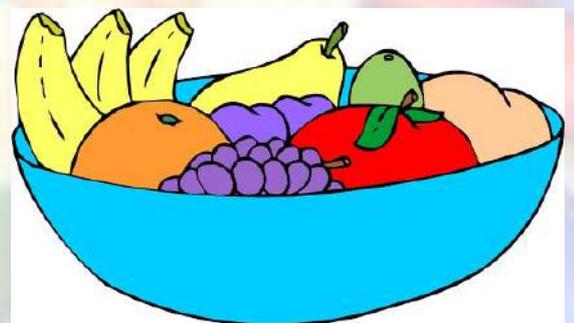
In **Year 5** we have been learning about what holy means and to be loving. We have designed our own book covers inspired by our own ideas of what this means to us. We have created our leaflets focusing on forgiveness and using famous quotes from inspirational figures around the world.

Following on from this, they then designed their own symbols to represent their thoughts.



## Snack Time

As we are unable to offer snacks for the children at present, you may wish to provide your child with a snack for them to enjoy. We ask that all snacks are healthy e.g. fresh fruit or vegetables and that no crisps, chocolates or sweets are provided. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children healthy and fuelled for school!



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## Y6 Leavers



The Year students were overjoyed after their surprise delivery from Mr Allison and Mrs Norton. They visited each member of Y6 to drop off their new leavers hoodies . Everyone was so excited to unpack and try them on straight away - a fantastic memory to keep.

## Building work

We will shortly be starting the building work on the new extended school car park, providing several additional spaces and a drop off point for parents to access.



## Saving Energy

Well done to the children and staff - its the third consecutive year that we have managed to reduce our energy rating in our bid to help the environment. We encourage the children to make small changes to reduce our energy consumption which can have a positive impact on our carbon footprint.



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Summer has finally arrived and we are spending lots of time outside. Please can we ask that you apply sun cream to your child to give them some protection from the hot sun. We would also recommend a cap or a sunhat to provide additional protection.



**Year four** have been looking at weather in tropical rain forests. This has allowed the children to identify the locations of the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. They have written their own weather forecasts and reports, as well as creating a table on numbers, comparing the climates of the tropics with UK temperatures. The children have worked really hard on this and have created some fantastic pieces of work!

## Tropical weather forecast

I am reporting from the tropical rain-forest - it is raining today although the temperature is 70 Fahrenheit with a high humidity, there is a very light breeze. The weather is the same as yesterday and is expected to be the same tomorrow with a high temperature of 77 Degrees Fahrenheit with lows of 66°F. Don't forget your sun cream because although there is a light breeze, you might burn with these high tropical temperatures.

WEATHER FORECAST: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

DAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	SUNNY WITH SOME CLOUDS	SUNNY WITH SOME CLOUDS	CLOUDY WITH RAIN	CLOUDS, RAIN AND LIGHTENING	CLOUDS, RAIN AND LIGHTENING	CLOUDY WITH RAIN	CLOUDY WITH RAIN
TEMP	HIGHS OF 32C	HIGHS OF 32C	HIGHS OF 31C	HIGHS OF 31C	HIGHS OF 31C	HIGHS OF 31C	HIGHS OF 31C
WIND	4MPH	5MPH	5MPH	5MPH	6MPH	7MPH	5MPH
PRECIPITATION	20%	20%	60%	80%	80%	50%	40%
HUMIDITY	72%	73%	80%	79%	80%	78%	77%

Table 1

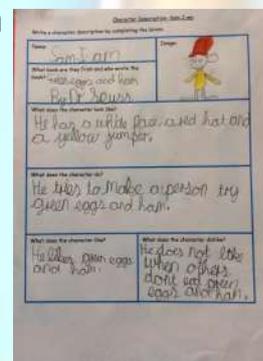
UK	South America
January 7 degrees	January 31 degrees
February 7 degrees	February 33 degrees
March 10 degrees	March 30 degrees
April 13 degrees	April 32 degrees
May 16 degrees	May 33 degrees
June 19 degrees	June 35 degrees
July 22 degrees	July 36 degrees
August 21 degrees	August 34 degrees
September 18 degrees	September 32 degrees
October 14 degrees	October 30 degrees
November 10 degrees	November 28 degrees
December 7 degrees	December 26 degrees

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Over the last couple of weeks, the Year 2 children have been looking at the author Dr Seuss. This leads on from our World Book Day theme as the children wanted to look at Dr Seuss' books in more detail. The children have been really engaged

when exploring his books. We have looked at "Green Eggs and Ham" and "The Cat in the Hat". The children have completed a variety of tasks such as drawing the characters from the stories, writing descriptions, reviewing the stories and looking at rhyming words.



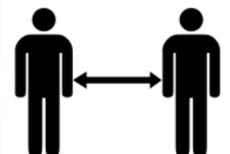
## Rainbow Award

In order to celebrate some of the fantastic work that the children have been doing, both at home and at school, we have come up with a new award which Y1 suggested be called the 'Rainbow Award'. We think this is the perfect name for an award during this unusual time. They chose this ... "as the award is for someone who brings cheer, works hard and does something special. There are lots of ways to get the award ... like there are lots of colours in a rainbow." We love your sentiment Y1, I'm sure you all agree! I wonder who our winners will be? Check out our Facebook page on a Friday afternoon to see who has received the rainbow award each week.



## Car Parking

Please may we remind you to be considerate that you are not blocking residents driveways or garages when parking outside the school gates. At this present time, please can we ask that you are mindful of the current social distancing rules and avoid congregating outside the school gates. Many thanks for your cooperation.



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We are delighted to have welcomed back Year 1 and Reception children this month! Our days have been filled with so many lovely activities, from nature hunt races to creating letters from natural materials. In our Year 1 family groups, we have really enjoyed getting back into routine and spending time getting to know each other again. The highlight of this week has been taking our lunch outside for a picnic!



We created superheroes because we have acted like superheroes! We made our sidekicks from lolly sticks and other materials and then made a superhero profile for ourselves, imagining our superpowers and even creating a supervillain enemy to defeat.



We have loved continuing with the weekly drawing club challenge from the Natural History Museum, and this week's theme of insects was a perfect reason to conduct a bug hunt! We did some sketches outside, but also researched on the iPads to find more detailed pictures to help us with adding colour and detail to our sketches.



In our Early Years family groups, we have loved spending lots of time exploring outdoors, where we have especially enjoyed hunting for lady birds in the long grass and making bug hotels using leaves and sticks that we have found. We have also been working really hard with our Maths and Phonics and have loved working in our "grown-up workbooks". We have even had fun reading the story of 'The Gruffalo' and impressing our teachers with our amazing writing and story-telling! However, our favourite part of the week has absolutely got to be when we ate our packed lunches outside in the sun and spent time chatting with our



friends.

Year 1 and EYFS staff are so proud of our amazing children, who have brought smiles and laughter back to school! We can't wait to see what fun the next few weeks have in store for us!



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## Term Dates 2019-2020

Benedict Biscop CE Academy 2019-20



September 2019						
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	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school

The Inset days may be subject to change.

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## Term Dates 2020-2021

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2020-2021



September 2020						
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